

America's Army, Ready to Meet the Challenges of Today...Tomorrow...and the 21st Century

Tomorrow's adversaries will no doubt be similar to the ones we face today—their frightening images of terrorism, narco-trafficking, ethnic cleansing, clan murders, and resurgent, competitive nationalism appear on the front pages and the TV screens in our living rooms. Our Armed Forces must be able to defeat an enemy armed with machetes and rifles as well as those armed with tanks, planes, and weapons of mass destruction. American soldiers, versatile enough to operate effectively in any environment as a member of the joint team, remain the very foundation of the national military power. They are the force of decision.

Whatever surprises the new millennium may have in store one thing is certain—we can look to our roots, to our legacy as the “Sword of the Republic” to help us prepare our Army for the future. We must have the capabilities required to win the nation's wars, establish order, prevent conflict, and sustain operations as long as required. Our “battlefields” include humanitarian assistance in Rwanda, peacekeeping in the Sinai and Bosnia, forward presence on the Korean peninsula, and nation building in Haiti. To meet these challenges, the Army must remain trained and ready today and into the next century. Our ability to compel, deter, reassure, and support is the essence of our capabilities based Army—the force of decision.



Despite the ambiguity of future warfare and the many forms it may assume, the battlefield will always be a dangerous, frightening, and lonely place. Only soldiers of character and courage, well trained, ably led, superbly equipped, and in sufficient numbers will survive there and win—tomorrow as they have in the past.